

# ABSTRACT

The invention relates to helper cells that are used for production of alphavirus particules. The helper cells harbor alphavirus genes that complement defects in an alphavirus replicon vector, which prevent the alphavirus replicon vector from assembling into a particle. The helper cells of the invention allow production of infectious, defective alphavirus particles. The invention further relates to methods of use of the helper cells and also to alphavirus particles produced using the helper cells and use of the alphavirus particles so produced.